

## **UNAPPROVED**

**There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

**Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Linda Teel, Lisa Beaulieu, Earl Wood, Dan Pedro, Erika Sanzi, John Gibbons**

**Administration Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D, Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Director of Administration, Dr. Susan Carney, Assistant Superintendent**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

**Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem – performed by the Cumberland School Band and Chorus**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda**

**Approval of minutes for Special Meeting 4/12/11, Special Meeting/Public Hearing 4/14/11, Regular Meeting 4/14/11 – Mrs.**

**Beaulieu made a motion to approve these minutes, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.**

#### **Agenda Item #5: Chairperson's Report**

**At this time Nicole M. Denton, RIMEA Advocacy Chair, presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Music: The Universal Language".**

**Some highlights that she spoke about were: students that are involved in music classes typically score higher on SAT tests, music students rank higher in reading and math, music students receive more honors in school and music students usually rank high in self esteem. She also touched on the fact that research showed that students that receive a quality music education in school usually do very well academically. Students involved in music also are more likely to attend four-year colleges and she also noted that a survey showed that schools having music programs in them have higher graduation rates than schools that do not have music programs. She is also a Woonsocket music teacher and understands all the concerns of budget issues, etc., but wanted to reiterate the importance of music for our students and wanted to let all of us realize all the benefits from a music program.**

#### **Agenda Item #6: Student Achievement**

**Superintendent's Report on Teaching and Learning – Dr. Morelle gave a special thanks to Mayor McKee and the Town Council for working together towards a solution for the budget. Also, gave thanks to Mr. Pedro for arranging the student's presentation tonight. Dr. Morelle**

also stated that she appreciated Ms. Denton's presentation and also thanked her for sharing it with us.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Comments from the Public**

**Paula Maloney – Principal at BFN – she talked about the statistic that was previously mentioned at another meeting about BFN being at 40% capacity – she said that would maybe be true if BFN was Grades 1-5 but they are Pre-K thru 5, plus walk-ins. She also said that she was asked to prepare a memo regarding the possible lease with BVP – it went to Dr. Morelle and also to the school committee. She noted that BVP needs eight classrooms – they may have four available, they wanted two offices, they need 24 parking spaces and Ms. Maloney explained that they do not have enough parking now, they do not have enough office space for the educators that they need in their building and so would not have any offices available. They would love to have offices for special education services, for speech therapy, for reading intervention, for occupational services, etc., the offices are just not available – their stage is being used as storage space and a classroom, there are always parking issues. Ms. Maloney went on to say that there has been a good deal of progress made in reading and math since 2006 and that the climate in the school is great. In closing she would like the SC to reconsider letting BVP lease out space at BFN because she feels that the school and the students will suffer.**

**Linda I. – teacher at BFN – wanted to know where everything stood at present and when will they be getting some answers. Mr. Mutter**

replied that this is going to take time, there is still information to be gathered, but he expects a lot to be cleared up in the next two weeks – so a decision should be made relatively soon – even possibly in the next two weeks.

Mr. Egan – addressing on behalf of the CTA – issues are with classroom space, parking, safety of students, legal and contractual issues with contracting out certain services – he referred to a similar situation that happened in New York and after one year it became permanent then they wanted the entire school – ended up where the public school students and parents had to fight to keep the school public. He also noted that other community students (such as Lincoln, Smithfield, etc.) would be utilizing Cumberland Public School facilities. He asked that the SC please deliberate carefully. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Mr. Egan if he had any other ideas of making up the money in the budget and he said that the Mayor and the Town Council should be supporting Cumberland students and the SC should be working with them.

Randy F. – father of two students, also a professional musician, he stated that you get more benefits from music than any other artistic program.

Emily R. – former graduate of CHS – has devoted her life to music and said that it is a way of creating a person. The arts are something that is very important – music is very important.

Shelby – former graduate of CHS – stated that band was everything for her – she believes that the arts help young people express themselves – it was where she made all of her friends. She enjoyed

**school more because of band in the middle school and in high school.**

**There were also comments from two parents that wanted to make sure that band is available because they believe that music builds self-esteem and lets children express themselves – one example was a child that has a learning disability – but music is his life and helps him with self-esteem and expression. One parent noted that the daycare available at BFN is a tremendous help to parents and a wonderful program and if the BVP lease moves forward, it would not only hurt the students at BFN, but the children who go there for the “Y” programs as well.**

**Jean – BFN parent – loves arts in the schools. Noted that the BVP lease is a one-time thing that is going to cause an awful lot of disruption – parents, teachers, administrators are just trying to protect the children at BFN.**

**Herbert – parent of two students – asked that the SC share all the information with the community – this BFN situation effects the whole community not just the BFN students – we need the afterschool programs, maybe we could do fundraisers to help raise the funds.**

**Monica – Garvin parent – switched her son from Democracy Prep to Garvin – her son has 24 children in his class – she doesn’t care for this so she would be in favor of redistricting.**

## **Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood said there were no payments made tonight. Also, asked if the Food Service Contract could be on the**

next meeting agenda.

### **Agenda Item #9: Old Business**

**A. Discussion and/or Vote on 2011-2012 School Calendar – Version 1 or Version 2 – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve 2011-2012 Version #2 calendar, 2nd Mr. Pedro, Mr. Wood noted that this version has one vacation in the spring – February and April is a New England thing – but there are other New England states that want to amend their calendars to one spring vacation also. This will allow for more consecutive days of teaching – we will come back to school after Labor Day – the busses will work off of our calendar. Mr. Gibbons then noted that he was in favor of looking at this – but unless the state adopts the calendar statewide he believes it would create a hardship on some of our teachers that live out of our district – daycare issues – he does not think this is the right move at this time. Mr. Rotella noted that there would have to be a change in the ICSE contract language because it notes February and April vacations – this will have to be discussed and will have to be removed from the contract – it would also effect the custodians, building secretaries and clerks. Dr. Morelle noted that this information, regarding the contract language, was given to the SC on 4/12/11. She also suggested that while the SC is contemplating this calendar, they should think about the teachers with families – she is concerned about substitutes – if teachers have to take the week off to be with their families, there may be an issue with getting substitutes. Mr. Pedro said he was in favor of the one vacation. Mrs. Sanzi stated that**

she thought the new superintendent should be a part of this decision – she will not support this now, but will in the future. Mrs. Beaulieu said she feels the same as Mrs. Sanzi, she hesitates to support it at this time. Mr. Mutter noted that he did receive the memo that Dr. Morelle was referring to and has spoken to Mr. Wood about it. So the motion by Mr. Wood, 2nd Mr. Pedro, failed on a 5-2 vote (Wood and Pedro in favor). Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve version #1, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-1, Mr. Wood voting no.

#### **Agenda Item #10: New Business**

A. Discussion and/or vote to approve SC-R-2011-03 Administrators Salary Increase – Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

B. Discussion and/or vote to approve SC-R-2011-04 – Fund Balance – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to add changes (referenced by Mr. Mutter) SC-R-2011-04A, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0. Mr. Wood then made a motion to approve passage of SC-R-2011-04A as amended with changes, approved 7-0.

C. Discussion and/or vote to approve SC-R-2011-05 Future Management Systems, Inc. – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, (contract \$18,204 with expenses), 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

D. Discussion and/or vote to approve Amended Medication Policy – JHCD – Mrs. Teel noted that at the last reading of this policy there was a question regarding prescription drugs possibly being abused by the students (could use or sell them), but Mrs. Teel spoke with Mrs. Wharton and she said that in 20 years she has not had any

abuse/no problems, so Mrs. Teel said there would be no changes to this policy. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.

E. 2nd Reading and discussion and/or vote to approve AED Policy – JHCH – Mr. Wood made a motion to wave the second reading of this policy, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0. Mrs. Teel noted that at the last reading there was a question regarding the CPR certification and Mrs. Teel said she has since checked with Mrs. Wharton and she confirmed that the certification was good for two years, not one. Mrs. Teel wanted to thank Sean Thompson, Cumberland Rescue Director for CPR training – over 70 participants attended the training class. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.

F. Discussion and/or vote to approve SC-R-2011-06 – Opposition of Binding Arbitration – House Bill 5961 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.

G. Discussion and/or vote to approve SC-R-2011-07 – support of June 1 layoff notice date – Senate Bill 2011-S 007 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

H. Discussion and/or vote to approve SC-R-2011-08 – Cumberland Business Advisory Board Mission Statement – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.

#### **Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations**

There were no personnel recommendations at this time.

#### **Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public**



**Lynn S. – BFN parent – talked about the “Y” program at BFN – helps out students with homework services, is open until 5:45 p.m., the daycare is invaluable to parents. There are three days of after school programs that are held at BFN that are paid for by grants. During the second week of June there will be an “Arts Showcase” at BFN – to show off some of the talents that the children have learned at the after school programs.**

**Rep. McLaughlin – noted that there are two weeks left for vetting any bills and only a few weeks left until they will begin voting on bills. Rep. M. is very concerned about the music program and about the BFN situation.**

### **Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)**

**Mr. Gibbons suggested that we address some of the space issues in our schools before we look at leasing some space out – we have to address concerns across our own schools first. He would like to look at the overall picture before making any decisions, if it is just for one year, he would not want to support it and cause so much disruption.**

**Mr. Wood noted that there was an article in the Valley Breeze last week that he believes needs to be addressed because proms are coming up – the issue was at CHS – he believes the SC needs to get the situation under control.**

**Mr. Mutter stated that anyone could suggest something and then ask for it to be placed on the agenda – he encourages everyone to do that – any member can make a suggestion, place it on the agenda and see**

if it passes. He also noted that he is gathering all the pieces of information regarding the letter that was in the Valley Breeze that Mr. Wood was referring to. It will take a little time to gather all the pieces, but it is being looked into.

Mr. Wood again stated that the SC needs to address the CHS situation; he said they had talked about doing something in the past, but did not and he would like to see something done very soon. He also noted that the reorg has never come to the full committee for a vote, it is still in the sub committee.

Mr. Mutter said that Mr. Wood should have put the reorg on the agenda, that it can come from him, he would like him to present something at the next SC meeting.

Mr. Mutter allowed one more public comment – it was a question regarding the redrawing of the district lines – is it a possibility or even something that can be considered. Mr. Mutter answered by stating that the SC is not sure that it is something that will save dollars, but it is something that will be explored.

**Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:**

**A. Grievance – Exception (9)**

**1)ICSE Grievance: 10-11-04**

**B. Personnel Matters – Exception (1)**

**1)CTA/ICSE**

**C. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2)**

**1)CTA/ICSE**

## **2) Potential Litigation**

## **3) Contract Negotiations**

**Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-1, Mr. Wood voted no.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**